

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3212

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, SN

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE LAWS GOVERNING COMMERCIAL FIREARM IMPORTATION

REF: STATE 177789

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES ACT
(SINGAPORE STATUTES, CHAPTER 238), INDIVIDUALS AND/OR
FIRMS IN SINGAPORE WISHING TO IMPORT FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION
MUST ABIDE BY STRINGENT REGULATIONS, WHICH INCLUDE
REQUIREMENT FOR IMPORT LICENSE. LAW PERMITS ONLY CERTAIN
TYPES OF SMALL ARMS TO BE IMPORTED, WHICH HAS BEEN INTERPRETED
TO INCLUDE SMALL ARMS FOR SELF-PROTECTION, AND SPORTING
RIFLES AND PISTOLS FOR TARGET SHOOTING. GOS POLICY PROHIBITS
THE IMPORTATION BY FIRMS OR INDIVIDUALS OF ANY MORE POWERFUL FIREARMS
INCLUDING THOSE WHICH COULD BE PUT TO ANY MILITARY USE.

2. LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR INDIVIDUALS:

IN ORDER FOR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPORT FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION,
HE MUST:

A. FILE INWARD DECLARATION WITH DEPARTMENT OF TRADE
STATING ITEMS TO BE IMPORTED WITH BRIEF DESCRIPTION.

B. APPLY TO OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES
(OIC OF A & E), DIVISION OF THE SINGAPORE POLICE DEPARTMENT,
FOR "LICENSE TO IMPORT ARMS", AND

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C. APPLY TO OIC OF G & EACOR "LICENSE TO POSSESS ARMS".

3. THESE TWO REQUIRED LICENSES WILL BE GRANTED TO THE INDIVIDUAL BY OIC OF A & E ONLY AFTER THE INDIVIDUAL HAS PASSED BACKGROUND EXAMINATION WHICH IS CONDUCTED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. IN ADDITION, NEED FOR THE GUN MUST BE APPROVED BY OIC OF A & E. IF STATED NEED IS SELF-PROTECTION, TEAM OF INVESTIGATORS IS SENT BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO VERIFY THAT DANGER OF DEATH EXISTS. FOR TARGET SHOOTING PERMIT, INDIVIDUAL MUST PROVE TO HAVE BEEN MEMBER AND TO HAVE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN GUN CLUB FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS.

4. ONE LICENSES ARE GRANTED AND FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION ARRIVE, CUSTOMS OFFICER AT AIRPORT OR PORT OF SINGAPORE AUTHORITY (PSA) POLICE AT PORT ARE REQUIRED TO DELIVER GOODS TO THE OIC OF A & E. INDIVIDUAL CAN THEN COLLECT GOODS FROM ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES OFFICE. A RECORD IS KEPT THERE OF DELIVERY AND DISTRIBUTION, AND INDIVIDUAL MUST RENEW HIS POSSESSION LICENSE ONE A YEAR IN ORDER TO RETAIN OWNERSHIP OF THE FIREARM.

5. LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL FIRMS:

IN ORDER FOR A FIRM TO IMPORT FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION, IT MUST:

A. FILE AN EXHAUSTIVE INWARD DECLARATION WITH DEPARTMENT OF TRADE WHICH LISTS NUMBER OF FIREARMS AND/OR AMOUNT OF AMMUNITION TO BE IMPORTED, MANUFACTURER OF THE GOODS, CALIBER OF THE FIREARMS, TYPE AND NAME OF DELIVERY VESSEL, EXPECTED DATE OF ARRIVAL, AND WHETHER OR NOT FIREARMS ARE FOR STOCK OR TRANSHIPMENT:

B. APPLY TO OIC OF A & E FOR "LICENSE TO DEAL WITH FIREARMS" AND

C. APPLY TO OIC OF A & E FOR "LICENSE TO STORE FIREARMS".

6. ONLY THREE FIRMS IN SINGAPORE PRESENTLY HAVE LICENSES TO DEAL IN AND STORE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION. THESE ARE:

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1. KHOO HENG PHO & CO., (PTE) LTD.
204 CANTONMENT ROAD
SINGAPORE 2.

2. HO HOCK ANN CO., (PTE) LTD.
2601/265 BEACH ROAD
SINGAPORE 7

3. CHYE WHATT SENG (PTE) LTD.
WOH HUP COMPLEX,
GOLDEN MILE, FIRST FLOOR
BEACH ROAD
SINGAPORE 7.

7. AS IN THE CASE OF INDIVIDUALS IMPORTING FIREARMS, ARMS
AND AMMUNITION IMPORTED BY FIRMS MUST ALSO ALL BE PROCESSED
FIRST THROUGH CUSTOMS OR PSA POLICE, AND THEN THROUGH OIC OF
A & E BEFORE THEY CAN BE HANDED OVER TO THE FIRM. COMPANY MUST ALSO
RENEW LICENSES ON YEARLY BASIS.

8. CONTROLS WHICH LOCAL AUTHORITIES PLACE ON DISPOSITION OF FIRE-
ARMS AND AMMUNITION AFTER IMPORTATION BY A FIRM ARE:

A. FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION MAY BE PURCHASED ONLY BY INDIVIDUALS
WITH "LICENSE TO POSSESS", AND

B. ALL PURCHASES MUST BE REGISTERED WITH OIC OF A & E.
HOLDRIDGE

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